# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5956
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Promotion of Eco-tourism
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**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is committed to promote eco-tourism in various States/UTs of the country as it is nature-based and ecologically sustainable and also beneficial to local people;
(b) if so, the details of the steps taken and schemes formulated by the Government in this regard during the last three years;
(c) whether the Government has identified some areas/locations in the country including remote, hilly and backward areas for promotion of eco-tourism and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the details of the funds earmarked and the expenditure incurred during the last three years;
(d) whether the Government is providing training to local inhabitants in the eco-tourism sector to popularize it and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps being taken to minimise the conflicts between the use of resources for eco-tourism and the livelihood of local inhabitants?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)& (b): The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme in the year 2014-15 for Integrated development of Theme based circuits. Eco-Circuit is one of the thirteen thematic circuits identified under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as part of the commitment for development of eco-tourism.
(c) & (d): Development and implementation of tourism projects including training of stakeholders is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under relevant schemes to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for promotion of eco-tourism, subject to availability of funds, submission of Utilization Certificates for funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

A list of projects sanctioned under the Eco-Circuit of Swadesh Darshan scheme and for Eco-Tourism under the now delinked scheme of Product /Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) in the last three years is given at annexure.

(e): In developing the Eco-Circuit of Swadesh Darshan scheme, the goal is to enable people to enjoy and learn about the natural, historical and cultural characteristics of unique environments, while preserving the integrity of those sites and stimulating the economic development opportunities in local communities.

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